

Health Science Five-Year Vision

The Health Science department is a group of talented, dedicated, and forward-thinking individuals who work together to educate students to enter a complex healthcare workforce.

Shared Vision

To prepare quality healthcare professionals, who are dedicated to life-long learning and will be leaders within the ever-changing and challenging healthcare environment, by working together with our community and through the use of state-of-the art educational experiences.

Major Initiatives

- **Create rich teaching/learning atmospheres.**
 - Create innovative classrooms with the use of technology and interactive student-centered instruction and assessment.
 - Expand alternative deliveries/distance learning.
 - Promote service learning opportunities.
 - Broaden learning experiences at the national/international levels.
 - Strengthen the communication, connection, understanding and assessment between didactic learning and practicum, fieldwork or clinical experiences.
 - Increase support staff (lab, administrative, clinic and technical) to allow faculty to focus on teaching.
 - Investigate partnering with a health facility to create additional space that could be used for on-campus labs
 - Provide a faculty imagination center, which includes consultants and release time for development and implementation of creative teaching and learning strategies.
 - Promote a college-wide focus on learning and teaching. These enhancements include adequate space, support from IT, bookstore, classroom technology, marketing, as well as faculty parking and facilities that support a learning/teaching focused environment.

- **Promote faculty professional development projects to improve teaching initiatives and student-centered learning.**
 - Encourage and expand Endowed Faculty Chair opportunities.
 - Increase Health Science professional development budget to support faculty development experiences.
 - Support faculty professional development initiatives for non-paid Kirkwood student practicum facilitators who work one-on-one with students (practicum supervisors, field work coordinators, clinical assistants, clinical faculty associates, and preceptors).

- **Develop a comprehensive plan to address the needs of increased Health Science enrollment.**
 - Predict and prepare for future growth as the health care worker shortage increases.
 - Plan for increased Health Science space needs to deliver quality instruction.
 - Enable delivery of quality instruction in the midst of this growth.

- **Increase the awareness and recognition of the Health Science department within the college and community.**
 - Communicate health science activities via campus communication methods.
 - Encourage Health Science program participation within the Kirkwood community.
 - Increase program marketing via community events or career fairs.
 - Explore possibilities of expanding the Health Science High School Academy offerings.
 - Expand partnerships with potential employers and clinic sites.

Capacity

To fulfill the Health Science vision the following capacity is needed:

- Facilities:
 - Additional space to provide dedicated labs for DA, DH, OTA, PTA, RT, MA, ST, and Nursing.
 - Faculty offices to accommodate management of career programs and promote student-faculty interaction.
 - Additional departmental work space/project room for teaching and dept. projects.
 - Health Science Imagination Center to facilitate creative thinking, brain-storming and problem-solving within teams.
 - Investigate partnering with a health facility to create additional space that could be used for on-campus labs.
 - Classrooms conducive to learning (controllable lighting, room control of temperature, soundproofing for media, round tables for cooperative learning).
 - An elevator in the middle of Linn Hall.
- Infrastructure
 - Adequate heating, cooling and plumbing within Linn Hall.
- Resources
 - Increase in Health Science budgets to accommodate growth in programs.
 - Equipment and technology for innovative teaching/learning strategies.
 - Financial support for faculty professional development initiatives for non-paid Kirkwood student practicum facilitators.
 - Resource enhancements including reliable IT servers/e-mail/network, increased support from IT, print shop, bookstore, classroom technology, marketing, dedicated faculty parking and facilities.
- Personnel
 - Increase support staff (clinic and lab coordinators, administrative, and technical) to allow faculty to focus on teaching.
 - An additional adjunct level (e.g. permanent part-time) who could teach more credits, and have benefits.
 - Support staff to assist faculty with technology projects such as Web CT etc.
 - Staff to seek and manage grants and endowments.

Ownership

The Health Science team feels a strong sense of ownership and commitment to health careers, programs, relationships with the community and meeting employment needs. The team is driven by a passion for health careers and is deeply dedicated to the creation of the learning atmosphere, outcome assessments, current technology, student success and support of adjunct and non-paid practicum, fieldwork and clinic assistants.

Support

The Health Science team highly supports the vision described in this summary. The team supports each other in this mission through caring, encouragement, sharing, availability, recognition and social functions.

Dashboard Indicators

- Create rich teaching/learning atmospheres: Student surveys; Faculty reflections; Report of activities.
- Promote faculty professional development: Faculty Professional Development report of activities; Student surveys; Report of activities for non-paid Kirkwood student practicum facilitators who work one-on-one with students.
- Develop a comprehensive plan to address the needs of increased Health Science enrollment: Plan for increased space needs; Monitor surveys and reports generated by the Center for Health Workforce Planning http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/workforce_planning.asp
- Increase the awareness and recognition of the Health Science department: Faculty reflections; Report of activities.